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OHIO JOURNALISM HALL OF FAME

Proceedings of the Eighth and Ninth Annual Dinner-Meetings of Judges, Newspapermen, and Others to honor the Journalists Elected

Faculty Club Rooms, November 15, 1935
Pomerene Hall, November 6, 1936, 6:30 P. M.

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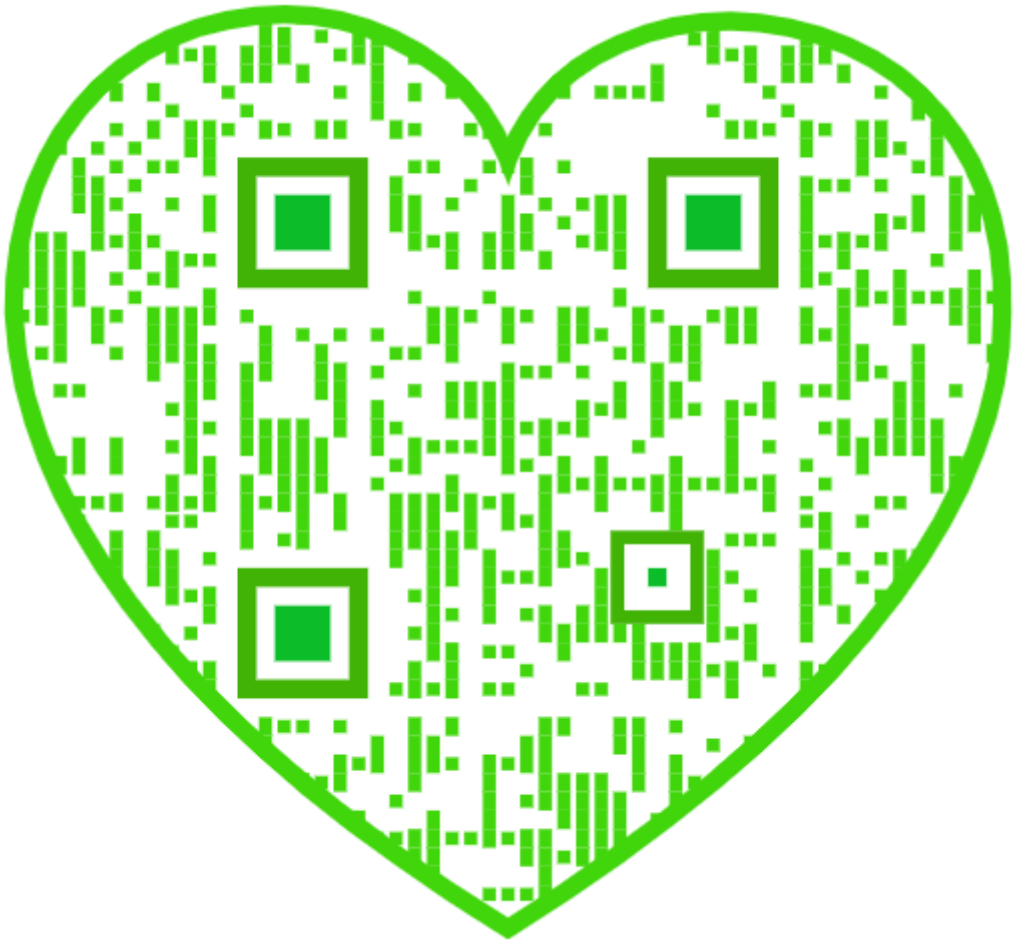
JOURNALISM SERIES NO. 13

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS
COLUMBUS MCMXXXVII



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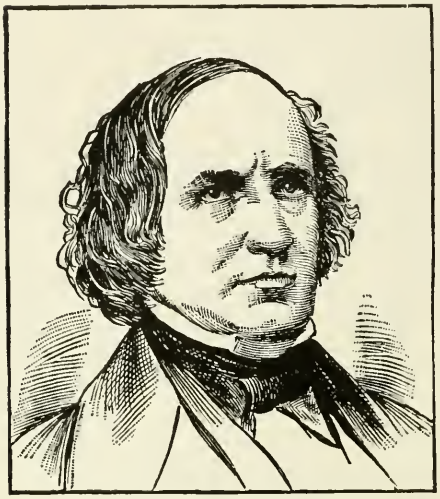
JOURNALISM HALL OF FAME JUDGES

1935-1936

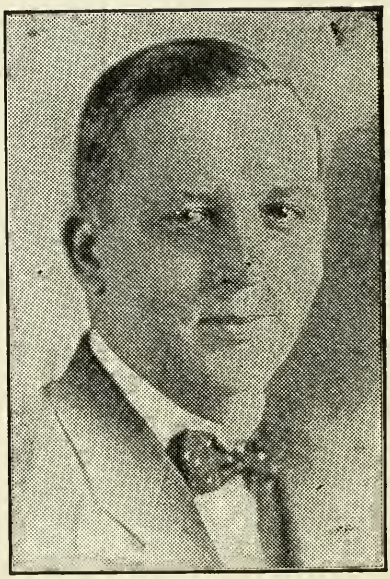
Harry W. Amos, *Jeffersonian*, Cambridge, O.
Don C. Bailey, *Banner*, West Liberty, O.
W. B. Baldwin, *Gazette*, Medina, O.
S. P. Barnett, *Plain Dealer*, Cleveland, O.
Clarence J. Brown, Blanchester, O.
Louis H. Brush, Brush-Moore Newspapers, Salem, O.
Chester E. Bryan, *Madison Co. Democrat*, London, O.
Gordon K. Bush, *Messenger*, Athens, O.
S. A. Canary, *Sentinel-Tribune*, Bowling Green, O.
W. H. Cathcart, Western Reserve University, Cleveland, O.
C. R. Corbin, *Blade*, Toledo, O.
James M. Cox, *News*, Dayton, O.
F. A. Dauble, *Messenger*, Fremont, O.
E. C. Dix, *Record*, Wooster, O.
William A. Duff, *Times*, Ashland, O.
J. A. Ey, Western Newspaper Union, Cincinnati, O.
T. T. Frankenberg, 17 N. High St., Columbus, O.
C. C. Fowler, *Mahoning Dispatch*, Canfield, O.
B. B. Gaumer, *Journal*, Marysville, O.
O. P. Gayman, *Times*, Canal Winchester, O.
David Gibson, 1370 Ontario St., Cleveland, O.
H. E. Griffith, *Morrow Co. Sentinel*, Mt. Gilead, O.
Herman E. Harner, *Citizen*, Urbana, O.
Russell B. Harris, *Times*, Arcanum, O.
Oliver Hartley, Norwich Hotel, Columbus, O.
R. L. Heminger, *Republican Courier*, Findlay, O.
R. B. Howard, *Madison Press*, London, O.
A. A. Hoopingarner, *Reporter*, Dover, O.
F. M. Hopkins, *Review*, Fostoria, O.
Fred E. Huls, *Republican*, Logan, O.
J. K. Hunter, *News-Advertiser*, Chillicothe, O.
Webster P. Huntington, Mt. Sterling, Ky.
J. E. Hurst, *Daily Times*, New Philadelphia, O.
Arthur C. Johnson, Sr., *Dispatch*, Columbus, O.
J. W. Johnson, Circleville, O.
John Kaiser, Marietta, O.
G. J. Kochenderfer, *News Journal*, Mansfield, O.

Edgar Koehl, *Times-Gazette*, Ashland, O.
Harlow Lindley, Archaeological and Historical Society, Columbus, O.
W. O. Littick, *Times-Recorder*, Zanesville, O.
H. B. McConnell, *Republican*, Cadiz, O.
Frank G. McCracken, *Examiner*, Bellefontaine, O.
Ed Mowrey, *Eagle-Gazette*, Lancaster, O.
J. A. Meckstroth, *Ohio State Journal*, Columbus, O.
Earle Martin, *News*, Cleveland, O.
Roy D. Moore, *Repository*, Canton, O.
J. S. Myers, *The Journal*, Middletown, O.
W. S. Needham, *Standard*, Pataskala, O.
L. M. Newcomer, *Daily Union*, Upper Sandusky, O.
Ford G. Owens, *Times*, Van Wert, O.
Harry Pence, *Enquirer*, Cincinnati, O.
W. H. Phillips, *News-Tribune*, Oberlin, O.
P. W. Reed, *Review*, Alliance, O.
C. A. Rowley, *Sentinel*, Ashtabula, O.
C. F. Ridenour, *Call*, Piqua, O.
Robert Segal, *Gazette*, Chillicothe, O.
Paul C. Siddall, *Review*, Alliance, O.
H. G. Simpson, Archaeological and Historical Museum, Columbus, O.
R. C. Snyder, Sandusky Newspapers, Inc., Sandusky, O.
George H. Speck, *Leader*, Pemberville, O.
C. H. Spencer, *Advocate*, Newark, O.
Bert D. Strang, Columbus, O.
W. O. Taylor, *Buckeye*, Archbold, O.
G. H. Townsley, *Western Star*, Lebanon, O.
C. B. Unger, *Register*, Eaton, O.
W. G. Vorpe, *Plain Dealer*, Cleveland, O.
Dr. Frank Warner, 177 Hubbard Ave., Columbus, O.
H. W. Wetherholt, *Tribune*, Gallipolis, O.
Letitia M. Wallace, *Tribune*, Coshocton, O.
Dale Wolf, *Enterprise*, Norwood, O.

MEN ELECTED AND THEIR EULOGISTS, 1935



JOHN McLEAN
(1785-1861)



CLARENCE J. BROWN
Who paid the tribute to Judge McLean

DON R. MELLETT
(1891-1926)

CHARLES E. MORRIS
Who paid the tribute to Mr. Mellett

PROCEEDINGS AND TRIBUTES
(1935)

GATHERED in the rooms of the Faculty Club, Ohio State University, on the evening of Friday, November 15, 1935, newspaper men and women from all over the state paid tribute to the two men who had been elected by them to the Ohio Journalism Hall of Fame. It was the eighth occasion of the kind and one of the most numerously attended.

The men who were thus to be honored were John McLean, founder of the *Western Star,* Lebanon, in 1806—a weekly publication then in its 129th year—and Don R. Mellett, editor of the *Canton News,* the crusading editor who had been shot down in the yard of his home by gangsters from whose rule he had been striving to free the city.

Professor Emeritus Joseph S. Myers, former head of the School of Journalism, Ohio State University, presided as toastmaster, and at the table with him sat Dean W. C. Weidler, of the College of Commerce and Administration; Mr. Grove Patterson, *Toledo Blade,* president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors; Hon. Clarence J. Brown, former secretary of state; Mr. Charles E. Morris, associate of Mr. Mellett in the publication of the *Canton News,* while in the audience were representatives of Ohio State, Ohio University, and Muskingum College.

Dean Weidler, on behalf of Ohio State University, extended to the guests a cordial welcome to the campus, and the coaches of the teams that were to meet on the following day on the gridiron—Robert Zuppke of Illinois, and Francis A. Schmidt of Ohio State, were introduced for a few words and the applause of the assemblage.

The addresses in which tribute was paid to the men elected to the Hall of Fame followed—that of Hon. Clarence J. Brown to John McLean, and that of Mr. Charles E. Morris to Don R. Mellett.

DON R. MELLETT

Tribute by Charles E. Morris, his associate in the *Canton Daily News*

Don Mellett and I were co-workers and friends. As such, and as the friend of his family, I am honored and grateful to have been invited here to pay tribute to him and to his life and works.

As his associate and friend, in behalf of his family and in behalf of those who knew him, worked with him, and loved him, I wish to express appreciation to those Ohio newspaper men and women, and historians, who chose him to be admitted to the Ohio Journalism Hall of Fame. He

now joins those other immortals in the Hall of Fame who adhered to the tradition, that to be privileged to work for or publish a good newspaper is the greatest thing one born for high purpose may achieve.

It has been said that good newspaper men are born, not made. Don Mellett was born to newspaper work and bettered in the making by the training he received. His background was right, his associations were right, his heart and inspiration were right, and in his conduct he was right. He needs no eulogy from my own, or any other, lips. The plain record of his work, now his history, is his eulogy.

Donald Ring Mellett was born in Elwood, Ind., Sept. 26, 1891, son of Jesse and Margaret (Ring) Mellett. He was one of seven brothers, all of whom engaged in newspaper work, like their father, who founded and edited a weekly newspaper at Elwood, one of the first published in Madison County, Ind. After attending grammar and high schools in Anderson and Indianapolis, Ind., he matriculated at Indiana University, where he became editor of the *Daily Student*.

He began his journalistic career on the *Indianapolis News*, later worked on newspapers in Bloomington, Ind., and thereafter became owner of the *Columbus* (Ind.) *Ledger*, which he published during the period from 1917 to 1923. Meanwhile for a short time he was associated with former Gov. James F. Hanley in the publication of the *National Enquirer* at Indianapolis. From 1923 to 1925 he did special advertising work for the *Akron* (O.) *Press*, a Scripps-Howard newspaper, where his work attracted the attention of former Gov. James M. Cox, of Ohio, then owner of the *Canton* (O.) *Daily News*, who employed him as publisher, in which capacity he continued until an assassin struck him down; struck from behind and in the dark, not because of personal enmity—because Don Mellett had no personal enemies—but because of a disinterested public service he was trying to render in ridding a worthwhile city from vice control, and make it a decent place in which to live.

Don R. Mellett, in Canton, fought the vice traffic which ruled by favor and by terror, and carried on a persistent and courageous campaign against a vice-controlled police department, which he accused of shielding notorious characters, dominant in the so-called underworld. His campaign became a crusade and led to the suspension of the chief of police by the mayor. During this crusade, due to rival activities of law breakers which he exposed, two men, whose names appeared in every investigation by his newspaper into police department malfeasance or worse, were sent to prison for perjury. This broke the underworld hold and perhaps made him a marked man.

Repeated warnings came to Editor Mellett that his name was listed for assault or death because of his crusade, but he continued fearlessly his attacks on the city's lawless elements until the end.

The crusade against evil carried on in Canton by Don R. Mellett resulted in complete exposure, in high as well as low places, and brought

about more than a temporary cleansing of conditions. He became a martyr to duty at the cost of his life, but that martyrdom stopped the series of vicious murders that went unsolved, and made it possible for the women of Canton to go about in safety.

Murders continue, but they no longer go unsolved, and justice moves rapidly. Not only were the intolerable conditions of the vice sections alleviated, but the courts and their agents were relieved of fear and threats and permitted to function as the decent public has a right to expect.

Don R. Mellett was cut down in his prime, but measured by its accomplishment his life was nevertheless full and rounded. He was a member of the Masonic order and of the Presbyterian church. He was a keen student of literature, a lover of outdoor sports, including tennis and golf, and devoted to music, spending many hours at the piano and in singing. He was married December 24, 1913, to Florence Mae, daughter of Charles H. Evans, of Indianapolis, Ind., and had four children, Don Ring (now of the *Indianapolis Times* staff), Jean Catherine, Betty Lou, and Martha Jane Mellett. He died at Canton, Ohio, July 16, 1926.

This seems so little to say of Don Mellett, whose life was so complete; it is only part of the record I should like to leave for him. I should like to tell of how he won my heart by his devotion to wife and children, to brothers, to mother and to duty; the more so because the last time I saw him in life, he and his wife and children were guests at our home, en route to Indiana for a hurried visit with his mother. We discussed business and visited not only until late in the night, but also until early in the morning. There I learned his history; his battles for the right; his high purpose.

Then came his untimely passing; a soldier, a martyr.

In closing permit me to quote a sonnet written by Professor Arthur E. Leible, '15, of the English Department of Indiana University, who, when an undergraduate, conducted a special column in the *Indiana Daily Student*. An alumnus member of Sigma Delta Chi, Prof. Leible was a personal friend of Don Mellett, who for one term was editor-in-chief of the *Indiana Daily Student*.

The sonnet was written under the title, "Who Looks on Tempests" (for Don Mellett):

"Our words are powerless to praise the great;
They falter, fade, and wither into dust.
And yet with words he fought a monstrous hate,
Corruption-spawned, and fed by vice and lust,
That reared its ugly head above the town,
Seeking its prey, defiant, pitiless,
A demon old as sin, that would not down,
Finding no foe, save only one: the Press.
And he, like knight of old, foreseeing doom,
Buckled his armor on, his sight unblurred
By fear, stood fast, and smiled, and gave no room,
His shield, the truth; his lance, the printed word.
The serpent struck. Our knight, my friends, is gone.
But dying, bade the Fourth Estate—"Fight on!"

JOHN McLEAN

Tribute by HON. CLARENCE J. BROWN, present owner of the *Lebanon Western Star*

The story of John McLean is the saga of pioneer Ohio and the narrative of the growth of a nation.

When one studies the life of John McLean he likewise studies history. John McLean helped make history. He not only molded public opinion through his services and work as a newspaper publisher, but he changed public opinion into the law of the land as a legislator, interpreted the laws as a jurist, and executed them as a high governmental official.

McLean's activities were so varied, and of such great importance, that it is impossible to give more than a brief summation of his life's work in the time allotted to me. So often was he performing two or more important tasks at once, that to endeavor to cover all phases of his life in a chronological order seems futile.

Therefore, in my humble way, I shall endeavor to separate the story of John McLean, whom Ohio publishers honor tonight, into three parts. First I shall tell something of his early life and education. Second I shall discuss his public and political career, and the third phase of my talk will be devoted to his service as the founder and publisher of a great newspaper.

EARLY LIFE AND EDUCATION

John McLean was born on March 11th, 1785, in Morris County, New Jersey. His father was Fergus McLean, a patriotic colonial. When John was four years old his family moved to the unsettled West, building a cabin home near what is now the site of Morgantown, West Virginia. Two years later the family moved on westward into what was known then as the "Dark and Bloody Ground" and settled near where Nicholasville, Kentucky, now stands. It was not until 1799, when John McLean was fourteen that his family entered Ohio. Leaving Kentucky they moved northward through Cincinnati to a little settlement five miles north of Lebanon in Warren County now known as Ridgeville, which was later laid out, surveyed, and patented as a village in 1814 by John McLean's father.

Fergus McLean, pioneer that he was, believed in the value of an education, and John was given what in those days was known as a "good education" by a private teacher. Better still he had inculcated into his mind and character the principles of honesty and uprightness; of thrift and common sense, handed down to him by his father as a part of his Scotch inheritance.

At the age of eighteen young John made the hazardous journey of thirty-five miles to Cincinnati, where he became a student of law under the noted Arthur St. Clair, Jr., son of the famous Revolutionary War figure, and territorial governor of Ohio. St. Clair in his own right was a great man, and was known far and wide as one of the most brilliant lawyers of

his day. In order to support himself while studying in the office of St. Clair, McLean obtained a position as penman in the office of the Clerk of Courts at Cincinnati. There he not only had the opportunity to obtain a closer acquaintanceship with the law in practical use, but also, in all likelihood, he had his first taste of practical politics. He completed his education in the year that he stepped over the threshold into manhood. So with the beginning of the year 1806 we leave behind the first phase of his life.

Public and Political Career

The year 1807 brought to McLean two coveted prizes—a beautiful wife, and a certificate of admittance to the Bar. In that year he established the first home of his own and began the practice of law in Lebanon.

The sun of success seemed to shine upon John McLean from the very start and in 1810 he was given the appointment as United States District Attorney for Southern Ohio, with headquarters at Cincinnati. He served so ably and so well that in 1812, at the age of twenty-seven, he was elected to Congress from the first Ohio district, which then included the counties of Hamilton, Butler, Preble, and Warren. He was elected as a Jeffersonian, but favoring war with England, he supported Madison. In the war year of 1814 an unusual and remarkable tribute was paid young McLean when he was re-elected to Congress unanimously, receiving every single vote cast at the polls in his district at that election. So outstanding was his service that in 1815 he was offered the nomination for United States Senator and, although assured of election, he declined the honor of a seat in the Senate.

In 1816 the Legislature by unanimous vote elected him to a seat on the bench of the Ohio Supreme Court and he resigned his chair in Congress to serve on that important body. He devoted himself to the problems of his pioneer neighbors in such a manner as to attract national attention and in 1822 President Monroe named McLean Commissioner of Lands, a most important governmental post in those early days.

Watching the work of his young assistant, not yet forty, Monroe soon promoted him to the position in his cabinet as Postmaster General. There he served for more than six years with an ability and distinction that caused him to be known as the real builder of our postal system and the actual father of our merit system. Working vigorously for long hours he installed efficiency and economy in the mail service of our country. He ignored politics completely by, for the first time, insisting on the retention in the mail service of capable and efficient individuals, regardless of their political affiliations.

While serving under John Quincy Adams as Postmaster General he took no part in the presidential campaign between Adams and Jackson. "Old Hickory" so recognized his ability, however, as to want McLean to serve in his cabinet, offering him first the post as Secretary of War, and then a place as Secretary of the Navy. Both of these positions McLean

declined to accept and in 1830 President Jackson appointed the Ohioan as a member of the United States Supreme Court.

McLean served on the United States Supreme Court thirty-one years, or until his death in 1861. In that position his career was a distinguished one. Many important cases were before the Court in the thirty-one years of McLean's service. They were troublesome years in the history of our country—those three decades before the Civil War. For a time, the Supreme Court itself could not function because there was not a sufficient membership, and due to a feud between President Jackson and the United States Senate the President's judicial appointments were not confirmed.

John McLean was the only member of the United States Supreme Court to present a dissenting opinion to that of Chief Justice Taney in the famous Dred Scott case. Some historians say he dissented because he had his eye on the presidency. Our survey of the life of John McLean convinces us that such a charge was untrue.

McLean had seen his Jeffersonian party veer from its moorings and he gradually swerved to the ideals of the younger Whig party. He was a northern man and his policies were perhaps somewhat influenced by his northern residence and his northern friends.

In 1848, without his prior knowledge or consent, he was prominently considered for the presidency in the convention of the Free Soil party. In 1856 at the Buffalo Convention of the newly born Republican party he received 196 votes to 350 for John C. Fremont, the Republican nominee for the presidency. Again in 1860, at the Chicago Convention, the Republicans of the nation honored McLean by presenting his name as a serious contender for the Presidency. He received many votes in that historic convention, where Lincoln was nominated. In the presidential campaign that followed, feeling that the Union must be preserved, McLean extended to Lincoln all the support and active assistance it was possible for a Supreme Court Justice to give in a political campaign.

A month after the inauguration of Lincoln, April 4th, 1861, when the war he dreaded was breaking, John McLean passed on. He left behind him a son—Nathaniel C. McLean—who served with honor and distinction as a Colonel in the Union cause and later became a famous attorney with a deep interest in journalism—his father's first love.

His Newspaper Career

John McLean's newspaper career was a short but interesting one; although throughout his entire life he took a deep interest in all the phases of journalism.

It was while studying law in Cincinnati that he became interested in primitive newspapers, and visited much in the office and printshop of one of Cincinnati's early newspapers—*Liberty Hall*. Evidently the smell of printer's ink got in its deadly work for in 1806, when barely over twenty-one, McLean purchased a press and the proverbial "shirt tail full of type"

in Cincinnati, loaded his equipment on an ox cart, and made his laborious way over the trail from Cincinnati to Lebanon. There in the county seat of Warren County he issued Volume 1, No. 1, of the *Western Star*. He was assisted by his brother Nathaniel, who actually was more of a printer than John, but being younger was less learned and less of a journalist.

Fergus McLean, father of the two boys, also aided in the enterprise. One might call old Fergus McLean one of the first circulation managers of any Ohio newspaper, for he rode horseback for many miles about the countryside to distribute the new newspaper and to obtain subscriptions. The mail service of that day was abominable and it has often been my thought that perhaps it was while endeavoring to run a newspaper that John first got his ideas as to the crying need for the complete reorganization of our postal service, which he so ably attended to later on in life.

Three hundred copies of the *Western Star* took care of its entire circulation. Yearly subscriptions sold for two dollars each. The advertising rate was one dollar a square—and the advertising was of the simple nature of that day. Early copies of the *Western Star* carried no local news but rather what was known as "intelligence" from Washington, Paris, London, etc. Happenings of importance were recorded weeks and even months after their occurrence in far distant places. No special leased wires and teletypes for the *Western Star* of that day.

Editorially, McLean was an ardent Jeffersonian, championing the principles of Jefferson with ardor and regularity. He also wrote with great devotion to the interests of the average citizen trying to get ahead in the wilderness of the new country. Through the columns of the *Western Star* he championed the cause of the pioneers, giving them the courage and the faith to carry on in the face of the hardships and obstacles that surrounded them.

John McLean was a tall and well proportioned man of vigor and energy. His exceptional intelligence and his remarkable personal ability soon made him an outstanding citizen despite his youth. He was cheerful in temperament, simple in habit, frank in manner. He was instructive and helpful to those about him and both charming and interesting in conversation. While at first a skeptic, he was converted by a circuit-riding Methodist preacher and lived an ardent Christian life. To a rare degree he inspired confidence and it is easy to understand why the people of Southwestern Ohio insisted on him leaving his newspaper office to be their representative in the Congress of the United States. When that step was taken he was lost to journalism as an active member, after three years of service as the founder and publisher of the *Western Star*. Congress was the threshold through which he stepped to a broader field and a greater service dedicated to the benefit of all the people of his country.

The paper that he founded lives on. Since July 4th, 1806, the *Western Star* has been published regularly in Lebanon. Generations have come and gone; great wars and conflicts have been fought; history has

been made and recorded; John McLean has been sleeping in Spring Grove Cemetery at Cincinnati for nearly seventy-five years; yet that which he created—his beloved *Western Star*—still lives and serves the community which gave him to the nation.

ADDRESS BY GROVE PATTERSON

The final address of the evening was by Grove Patterson, editor of the *Toledo Blade* and president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors. His theme was the function and duty of newspapers in the changing political, economical, and social order. In the political field he felt that the newspapers would be called upon for a leadership of high quality and a most intelligent interpretation of men and measures under a two-party system with, perhaps, a change of party names and a new alignment of voters. In the field of economics, he felt it to be the duty of newspapers to think long and work devotedly to bring constructive suggestions to the men in office. The social field, said the speaker, presented the most serious problems. The disregard of law and prevalence of crime are outstanding facts that should alarm, and it is the duty of newspapers to build a public opinion that will give adequate support to prosecutors and courts, to suppress no news of crime, to assail officials who fail through fear or favor.

As for the freedom of the press, said the speaker:

"I am less disturbed about that freedom than I am about the disposition of many editors not to do anything with the freedom that is theirs. . . . Too frequently we fail to take advantage of our positions, too frequently we take the easiest way, too frequently we rest in the lethargy of inattention to great matters. We somehow believe in the myth of automatic progress. We think the country will muddle through and so we editors muddle with the rest. And so the country probably will muddle through. But there is intellectual and spiritual decay in personal, editorial muddling.

"The press in the United States does not suffer from lack of freedom. It has had it traditionally and it has it now, and we are going to see to it that we keep on having it. But with some notable exceptions, to whom we point with pride, we suffer from editorial inactivity and mental indolence. The press does not lack courage but in too many quarters courage has grown rusty with disuse.

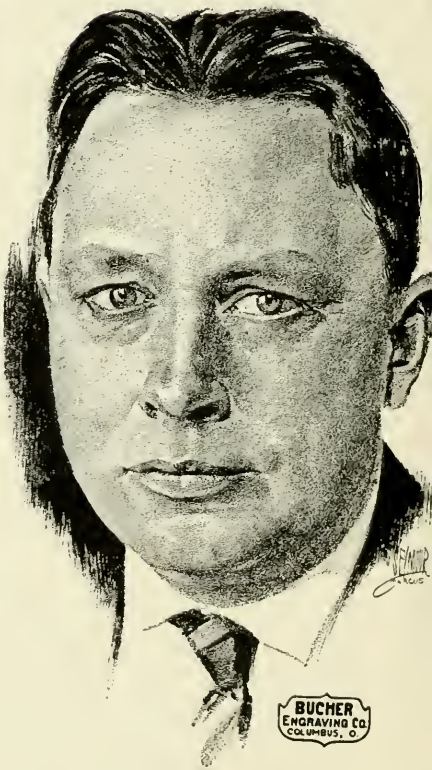
"We become tremendously excited about the later amendments to the Constitution of the United States, few of which ever furnished

a first-rate issue, and we almost forget the first ten amendments to the Constitution, which form the 'Bill of Rights,' by virtue of which we have in this country those splendid liberties which have now become rare and extraordinary on the face of the earth.

"Here are principles worth preserving, worth fighting for, worth dying for. And it is the great business of American newspapers to preserve them—not that we may continue to have the fun of editing newspapers but that we may lead in that eternal vigilance by which the liberty of the people as a whole shall be preserved."

MEN ELECTED AND THEIR EULOGISTS, 1936

ERIE C. HOPWOOD
(1877-1928)



PAUL BELLAMY
Who paid the tribute to Mr. Hopwood

MEN ELECTED AND THEIR EULOGISTS, 1936

WILLIAM D. BICKHAM
(1827-1894)

DAN D. BICKHAM
Who paid the tribute to Major Bickham

PROCEEDINGS AND TRIBUTES
(1936)

THE ROSTER of the Ohio Journalism Hall of Fame was increased to 29 at the ninth annual Hall of Fame dinner held November 6, 1936, at Ohio State University. The names added were those of Major William D. Bickham, publisher 1863-1894 of the *Dayton-Journal*, and Erie C. Hopwood, editor of the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, 1920-1928.

An unusual touch was given to the ceremonies in that the formal tributes were given one by a son, and the other by the successor of the men honored. The career of Major Bickham was described by his son, Dan D. Bickham, for 24 years a member of the *Journal* staff, while that of Mr. Hopwood was discussed by Paul Bellamy, his longtime associate and present editor of the *Plain Dealer*.

About 100 persons attended the dinner which was held in Pomerene Hall on the campus. Among the guests were Mrs. Hopwood; her son, Henry, who is a member of the *Plain Dealer* staff; Mrs. Alma Lee, a sister of Mr. Hopwood, and Miss Georgia Andrews, longtime secretary to both Mr. Hopwood and Mr. Bellamy. W. G. Vorpe, Sunday and feature editor of the *Plain Dealer*, and Guerdon S. Holden, one of the owners of the newspaper, were also present.

In the absence of President George W. Rightmire, a letter of greeting from him was read by Dr. Felix E. Held, secretary of the University's College of Commerce and Administration. James E. Pollard, acting director of the School of Journalism, which sponsors the Hall of Fame, presided. Among the guests introduced was Bert D. Strang, Columbus newspaperman, who was a "cub" on the *Journal* under Major Bickman and who later was a correspondent for the *Plain Dealer* under the Bellamy editorship.

ERIE C. HOPWOOD

Tribute by Paul Bellamy, Mr. Hopwood's successor as Editor of the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I shall always be profoundly grateful that the honor of proposing Erie C. Hopwood's name for inclusion in the Ohio Hall of Fame came to me. Not only was he the best friend I ever had, but he richly merited the recognition which his fellow practitioners of the journalistic art have now seen fit to confer upon him.

I say he was my best friend, and I want to tell you a little about the

length and quality of our friendship. I came to Ohio in February, 1907, when Mr. Hopwood was city editor of the *Plain Dealer*. I was associated with him continuously thereafter for twenty-one years, except for a short period of truancy on my part, when I went to Chicago to try my hand in a business other than newspaper editing, and then served a short time in the army. When Mr. Hopwood's untimely death occurred at the age of fifty-one, on March 18, 1928, I had been serving for some eight years as his managing editor, and in that position, I think I may fairly say that I occupied an unusual vantage point for observing his career, for apprehending the temper and flavor of his mind and for understanding his ideals.

But it is not only because he was my friend that I am proud of standing in this place and testifying for Erie C. Hopwood. In a far larger sense my pride in this office springs out of the fact that he made a definite and lasting contribution to our calling.

I shall attempt to analyze and set before you tonight the true nature and importance of this contribution.

I take it that you are all more or less familiar with the milestones of Erie C. Hopwood's career, but to make the record complete I will go over them briefly.

MILESTONES OF CAREER

Mr. Hopwood was born of solid English stock, in the little village of North Eaton, Ohio, a few miles southwest of Berea, on February 7, 1877. His father and mother were genuinely of the Western Reserve. They had seen their parents literally help clear the wooded hills of northeastern Ohio. The father, Henry Clay Hopwood, and the mother, Emily Cook Hopwood, moved their little family to Ashtabula County when their two sons, Bert and Erie, were very young, and it was there that Erie Hopwood spent his boyhood. He was schooled at the Jefferson High School and the Jefferson Educational Institute, in the county seat of Ashtabula, and as a quiet farm boy he came to Cleveland in 1897 to work his way through Adelbert College of Western Reserve University. In his battle for an education he did many kinds of work. He tutored other students, mowed lawns, wrote college correspondence for the *Recorder* and the *World*, two of the Cleveland newspapers of that day, and served as night clerk in the New Amsterdam Hotel at East 22nd and Euclid Avenue. But he also found time to qualify as an excellent student and to play football. He was graduated in 1901 with a Phi Beta Kappa key. Mr. Hopwood often described to me the hardships of those years, and I always felt that they left upon him an indelible conviction that there was a reward and a glory in hard work and that it was not and never would be as important to be merry as to stand up and perform the task set before one.

Upon his graduation from Adelbert young Hopwood was faced with the necessity of earning money to discharge debts which he had contracted at college. Although he had already decided upon a newspaper career, he

seized the most profitable job which opened to him, and this happened to be a teaching position in the faculty of the Middletown, Ohio, High School.

A year later, however, he applied to W. R. Merrick, then city editor of the *Plain Dealer*, and was given a job as police reporter for that newspaper. Shortly he became assistant city editor, then city editor, and in 1907 night editor, a position which then carried the responsibility of being in complete editorial charge of the newspaper at night. In 1912 he was made managing editor, then the highest editorial post on the paper, and in 1920 the title of his office was changed to editor.

Shortly after the start of his newspaper career Mr. Hopwood married Miss Ida Walter of New Philadelphia, who is here tonight. Of their marriage were born: Eleanor, now Mrs. Ishbel McIlhenny; Marion, now Mrs. Ralph Kelly; and Henry W. Hopwood. Both Ralph Kelly and Henry Hopwood are members of the *Plain Dealer* staff.

This prosaic recital of the rungs of the ladder by which Erie Hopwood climbed to national fame in the newspaper business gives but a slight impression of the furious industry and unremitting labor which he devoted to achieving his ambition.

During the course of a year it falls to my lot to talk with a large number of young men and women who want newspaper positions. There is nothing more dangerous for any of us, as he grows older, than to indulge in sweeping abstractions about the younger generation, but this one thing I know, that the will to work and the will to success possessed by Erie Hopwood was unique, so far as my acquaintance with newspaper men goes; and I am forced to say that I find the quality increasingly rare among youngsters of today. Young Hopwood literally knew no hours. He worked incessantly to learn more about the newspaper business. There was no angle of it to which his burning inquisitiveness did not lead him. Truly he was the perfect example of the man always ready for the vacancy ahead. He practiced indefatigably at writing and copy reading. He read all he could find about the newspaper press. He studied periodicals and current books of the day. He once confessed to me a little sadly that his youth had been spent in such constant labor that it seemed to have destroyed the impulse toward harmless pleasure which appears normal in most young men. Work increasingly became his fun. Both as a youth and a man he wasted less time in frivolity than anyone I ever knew. For his own sake I sometimes wished that he could relax more than he did, but who is wise enough to write a rule of life for others? In the highest sense of the word Erie Hopwood made a successful life according to his own pattern.

Figure in the Community

As Mr. Hopwood grew in his job, he grew also as a figure in the community. A modern newspaper stands at the very heart and center of its city. To the editor come all those who are attempting anything of importance in the city's life. Without press support their chances of success in public effort are very slight, and with it, if their ideas are sound, they

are almost bound to succeed. Although he religiously kept himself out of dangerous commitments to political characters, he was constantly consulted by mayors, governors, senators, and all those who lead in the public life of the times. He was one of the early presidents of the Cleveland City Club, whose forum has offered perhaps the best opportunity in the city for free interchange of political and civic ideas.

Besides industry there was another quality which Erie Hopwood possessed in marked degree. This was absolute integrity. He simply was not interested in any proposition which did not assay one hundred per cent honest. He had no time to bother with people who came around with sleazy ideas. You had only to look at him to know that he was right and that he would not compromise with his conscience. He was a great rock for his newspaper.

If I have given you the impression that Mr. Hopwood was always austere, then I have made a mistake. Austere he certainly was, compared with certain types of men. He was not a back-slapper. He did not engage in idle persiflage. But what he said he stood by, and underneath an exterior which sometimes seemed unduly stern he was the most kind-hearted of men. This could be illustrated by a hundred instances of sympathy for members of the staff in trouble.

When I interview the young people out of whom newspaper staffs of tomorrow will be built, I often find myself thinking of Erie Hopwood, because it seems to me that he possessed nearly all the special aptitudes which are most valuable for newspaper work.

APTITUDES FOR JOURNALISM

One of these certainly is alertmindedness.

Another is an insatiable curiosity as to the structure of society and a burning desire to know what makes the wheels go round, to understand what are the desires and emotions which lead people to behave as they do under varying circumstances.

A third must be the desire to impart information which one has gained. In fact, no man will make much of a success as an editor unless he wakes up every morning with a thought which to him, at least, must be uttered before noon, or be burst from suppression. I have often noticed that the best reporters are those who, after a busy day's work, gather round them in the local room a knot of their fellows and tell all over again the facts of the great and interesting story which they have just covered. Certainly no one of the invert type can be a successful newspaper man.

The abstracted professor type of man is no good for us. I know a biochemist who has spent ten years studying the life cycle of a bacillus which lives in a bull frog. For all this time he has found daily inspiration in the fascinating existence of this tiny creature as reflected to him through his microscope. I often think of that scientist as being the absolute antithesis of a newspaper editor. If he is successful in his quest, which happens to be a

cure for malaria, he will become one of the great benefactors of mankind and we shall erect statues to him, as statues have been built to the inventor of anesthesia and the discoverer of insulin. But this gentleman would be a complete failure in a newspaper office. Our work must be done in a hurry. There is not time for profound laboratory investigation of the subjects with which we treat. In fact, our besetting weakness as a profession is that we do not go deep enough. And yet years of newspaper experience develop a compensating virtue in the form of a sense of synthesis not often found in those who take one particular corner of human knowledge as their field. The newspaper man comes by a process of trial and error and by observation to feel instinctively what political, social, and economic policies and expedients will work and what will not. He becomes aware of the conflicting pressures in modern society. He, more than anyone else, is likely to be able to tell in advance how much progress his section of the country will assimilate. This is a very valuable characteristic, and makes his counsel indispensable to those who deal in public affairs.

How audacious is the newspaper man. How courageously, with the help of a comparatively limited staff of writers and investigators, he dares to discuss every subject under the sun. By contrast, consider the extent to which research has been developed by modern business and by the formal professions. A college instructor in one of the large universities who undertook to set simself up as an authority on the whole of English history would be regarded, I am inclined to think, as somewhat quixotic. If he pretended to know something really profound about the reign of Queen Elizabeth alone he would be taking in a large territory. But contemplate the vast field on which the editorial writer must report. Or look at the humble reporter, who is the foundation of our entire business. We expect him to write equally intelligently about the Einstein Theory, a political scandal in our city, or a great disaster of nature.

An Ideal Editor

Often it has been asserted that the ideal editor should know everything, which is another way of saying that the ideal editor never has been born and never will be, but the editor who comes measurably near the top must be one who, like Erie Hopwood, never stops learning, never stops observing, never stops driving himself to an even wider and wider grasp of what is going on in the world. I wonder how many of the younger generation have any idea of the countless hours of study which go into a career of this character. There is no rest night or day, winter or summer, for a man with Erie Hopwood's unquenchable thirst for knowledge.

He believed that a leader should be more able than his subordinates to perform all the tasks involved in newspaper production. For example, he realized quite clearly the growing importance of photography to newspapers, and as usual, he was not satisfied with the easy approach to the problem. It would have been simple merely to hire photographers, but this was not

good enough for Hopwood. He undertook the study of photography in all its branches and became an excellent photographer in his own right. He then felt himself in a position to train others for photography. Similarly with typography, with photo-engraving, stereotyping, and press work. He detested men who talked off the tops of their heads. He always spoke by the book.

Any enumeration of Mr. Hopwood's good qualities as newspaper editor would be incomplete without mention of his remarkable grasp of the business side of his job. It is a truism that metropolitan newspapers have become huge business institutions involving enormous investments and requiring the most careful kind of handling from a cost-accounting viewpoint. Without sound business management they must inevitably fail, no matter how inspired the editorial voice may be. So it is no longer sufficient for an editor merely to be a great proclaimer of the truth and chronicler of the day's event. He must needs also learn the technique of business. He must administer the expenditures of an ever increasing editorial budget amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars a year. In the entire American newspaper picture I never knew an editor who had a sounder business sense than Erie Hopwood. One of his associates recently declared that Hopwood could have made as great success in the business office as he did in the editorial sanctum. No one ever more successfully secured a dollar's worth of service for a dollar's worth of expense. His advice was as valuable on the business side of the paper as in his own immediate province.

Finally, let us point out that Erie C. Hopwood was driven by a demon which could never be satisfied with anything less than the best possible job. He never had patience with inferior work, either by himself or by others, and this was possibly his most valuable quality as a newspaper man.

His Contribution to Journalism

In the preceding paragraphs I have attempted to analyze Erie C. Hopwood as a newspaper man. I want to address myself now specifically to the reasons why it is fitting and proper that his name should be added to the honor roll in the Ohio Journalism Hall of Fame.

If I were asked to state Erie Hopwood's chief contribution to his profession I should answer it was his singular devotion to the principle of honest and uncolored news.

He followed directly in the footsteps of Adolph S. Ochs and of his long time associate, the late Elbert H. Baker, with whom he worked out an authentic technique for this kind of news coverage.

The two indispensable functions of a newspaper are, first, to tell the news, and second, to express opinions about news. The first function is the news function, and the second is the editorial function. Throughout history the newspaper has always possessed both these functions, but at varying periods they have stood in a different ratio of importance. Which of the

two is actually more important would, in my opinion, be impossible to determine, as the argument so closely resembles that classic dispute as to whether the stomach or the heart is the more essential bodily organ. There cannot be a complete body without both. Nor can either get along without the other.

But it is surely true that the distinguishing mark of American newspapers, in the era of personal journalism, was an emphasis of the editorial function over the news function and a failure to realize any evil in an admixture of the two.

I think it was Mr. Ochs more than any single individual who discovered the importance of news in the modern newspaper. He believed that people wanted news and would pay for it, but that it had to be honest news and not somebody's opinions. It is hard to realize how revolutionary this kind of news writing at first appeared. I know from the history of the *Plain Dealer* what a sensation it caused in Cleveland. In the old days the *Plain Dealer*, as a Democratic party organ, did not rest content with abusing Republicans on its editorial page. Its news reporters also were expected to vilify the natural enemy.

Mr. Baker, following in the footsteps of Adolph Ochs, believed there was a field in Cleveland for a newspaper which would attempt to write its news in an objective and realistic manner and at once put his idea into effect. After the first gasp of astonishment had subsided he found that the *Plain Dealer* began to gain readers among Republicans as well as among Democrats, and this was the dollar-and-cent justification of a policy which practice of objective news-writing to great heights. He preached it so much that it became the office creed. His ear being attuned to exact truth, he developed an uncanny faculty for detecting the slightest off-key note in a news story.

In maintaining that Hopwood's perfection of objective news presentation was his greatest contribution to our profession, I freely confess that I am somewhat influenced by a profound belief that recent events in Europe, as well as the political campaign just now closed, demonstrate the paramount necessity for continuance of uncolored news reporting if newspapers are to remain free. We hear a great deal nowadays about freedom of the press, and I daresay that some of its extreme votaries would contend that this freedom includes the right to deceive. I do not agree with this. I am greatly concerned about the position of the American newspaper in public estimation. It was pointed out in a national magazine last week that newspapers with a daily circulation of 14,000,000 supported election of Mr. Landon, while newspapers of but 7,000,000 daily circulation supported the election of Mr. Roosevelt. I do not think there is anything necessarily fatal to the public esteem in which newspapers are held that a majority of them should be on the losing side, so long as their news columns are clean but when colored news is added to unpopular opinions I wonder quite frankly how long the American public is going to remain impressed with the sacredness of a free press.

Yet without a free press democratic institutions cannot survive. They cannot survive without a pure and undefiled supply of information to the public. An ignorant or an uninformed public falls easy prey to the tyrant, either of the right or of the left.

As I look about the world I have my moments of discouragement as to the future of democracy and of that liberalism upon which it is founded. In divers countries liberalism has been squeezed between the upper and nether mill stone of fascism and communism. And yet both temperamentally and as a result of earnest cogitation it seems to me that liberalism is the philosophy of wise men, and that the true inwardness of liberalism is a willingness to look at both sides of every question, analyze on facts and not on prejudices, discuss, debate, and finally decide by majority vote.

HIS NEWSPAPER RELIGION

That Erie Hopwood saw the imperative need of honest news presentation and made it his newspaper religion will always constitute his chief claim to greatness.

It was inevitable, as he matured and developed, that Mr. Hopwood should think of the newspaper business in its wider dimensions and of the profession as a whole. In 1922, with a half dozen other leaders of the profession he founded the American Society of Newspaper Editors, of which he was a director from the beginning and later secretary and president. This Society, in the opinion of those who came after, has contributed mightily to the upbuilding of an editorial esprit de corps in America, and has helped effectively to overcome a tendency toward sectionalism to which editors, like other human beings, are all too prone.

It was to this Society that Mr. Hopwood, on January 17, 1927, as president, summed up his ripened newspaper philosophy in the following words:

"I cannot tell whether the American newspaper is better today than it was when this Society met here one year ago or than it was when this body was organized in 1922. Personally, I think it is. Each passing year seems to bring with it a keener realization on the part of more editors of the high responsibility with which they are charged. I seem to see a growing sense of fairness in news presentation, a growing tendency to discuss differences of opinion editorially rather upon the merits of the issue than upon the personality of individuals involved. I seem to sense a greater feeling of obligation on the part of the newspaper to keep its public informed as to all significant news the world over, without bias or prejudice. I think there is a growing humanness in the newspaper, a recognition that, after all, it is not something aside and apart from life, but something which is of the essence of life itself."

A year later, and while still president of the Society, Mr. Hopwood died. It fell to Casper S. Yost of the St. Louis *Globe Democrat*, to voice the universal grief at his passing. Yost said:

"The American Society of Newspaper Editors mourns the loss of its president, Erie C. Hopwood. In the prime of life, in the midst of a career of extraordinary usefulness, death came with a sudden summons and he is gone, leaving only a memory and the results of his work.

"But it is a living memory. It is the memory of one who labored unselfishly and effectively for the advancement and elevation of journalism. One of the founders of this Society, Mr. Hopwood was the author of its constitution, was for four years its secretary and two years its president, in both offices serving devotedly and capably, giving his time freely to their duties, seeking always to increase the strength and promote the welfare of the Society. Moreover, he was constantly active with voice and with pen in the support of the ideals of journalism and of all movements helpful to the interests of journalism.

"He lives in memory, indeed, as one whose impress upon the hearts and minds of his fellows is too deep to be erased, one whose character commanded respect, whose integrity was beyond question, whose judgment was sound, whose conduct and opinions were actuated by a sturdy and practical common sense, whose courtesy was unfailing, who, in short, was worthy of the esteem, confidence, and affection in which he was held by the members of this Society, and worthy of the leadership they conferred upon him.

"He lives in memory, and his name and his service will never be forgotten."

This, then, was the man whom we have justly admitted to the Ohio journalistic great. Nothing was ever written about him more eloquent and more touching than the tribute indited in the first shock of grief at his death by Walker S. Buel, Washington correspondent of the *Plain Dealer:*

"He was sympathetic, understanding, just, and fair. Courage, sympathy, and understanding, with justice and fairness, enter into the making of a great newspaper and into our relationship among ourselves. They are part of what he bequeathed to us. We cannot do less than follow his star.

"All that we had from him cannot be easily told; all that we felt toward him cannot be easily expressed. He will live within us, for he gave us much of himself to share. We have for him still the feeling we could have only for one whose life we lived, and now the additional tenderness for one whose death we watched beside.

"We loved him, and loved him well; who opens our hearts will find his memory there."

WILLIAM D. BICKHAM

Tribute by his son, DANIEL D. BICKHAM

Mr. Toastmaster and Gentlemen:

A place in the Ohio Hall of Fame is one of the highest honors a newspaper man can reach. The names upon its scroll are of men who have labored faithfully and patriotically for the good of the State. They fought a good fight to point the way, to guide the people and protect the State. Because of this Ohio newspapers have qualified. The directing influence for many years was the Editor. He still is to a large degree. But the business of running a newspaper has so telescoped departments that the combination is too big for one man. Newspaper policies must be digested and directed by a group to avoid trouble and confusion. So the editorial writer is given a joint political, business, and local policy to guide him.

Major William Denison Bickham's direct contribution to the development of Ohio Journalism, when he went to Dayton in 1863—nearly 75 years ago (from Rosecrans' army after the battle of Stone River) was taking his place in line with other Ohio editors bent on keeping Ohio people in the Republican party for the Union. It was a day of fierce fighting for a cause. Civil War had split the people of the nation into three sections—one for secession; one for the Union; and a middle peace party which objected to war as unnecessary, after this whole country had been at war for two years. Bickham went to Dayton to do this one thing for his country and party, and incidentally to win a home and success for himself. He went to the one spot in Ohio that then could be called "the enemy's country;" for the local newspaper, the *Journal*, had been sacked and burned, and its republication stopped till Bickham went and defied the outlaw element as he resurrected the Union newspaper. With it he fought down local rebellion, and by his attack and methods won over the people to his *Journal*, till this corner of Ohio ceased to be a doubtful sector. His particular gift was the "editorial paragraph." His caustic withering paragraphs smothered antagonism. "Those little pieces hurt," they said. The place and time and conditions called for what he had and brought. He believed he knew the way to convince his public. They first antagonized, then read and heeded, then conformed and liked it. He won over his public by fighting them to his side. It was called molding public opinion. Greeley in his *Tribune*, and Dana in his *Sun* did it, as did others. It was the main feature of journalism from 1850 to 1890; as public influence was wielded by the pens of Jefferson, Hamilton, Franklin, and Payne, and others at our beginnings. Bickham's editorials were quoted over the State, and he was recognized as a newspaper influence. In Columbus he made contacts with all public men of his day. He won friendship and confidence. He wanted no political favors, so his party leaders trusted him. For 25 years he represented the Dayton district at National Republican conventions, and boosted the development of the "Ohio Presidential Idea."

His Civil War correspondence for two years was put into book form, and his report of the Rosecrans campaign with the 14th Army Corps (the Army of the Cumberland) was accepted as the official record.

Helped to Organize the Press

The then country editors were called the "Rural Roosters." He joined them to organize the Western Associated Press in Michigan, and served on its board of directors through its life till 1894 when the Associated Press moved in.

In 1853 the Ohio newspaper men organized the "Ohio Editorial Association," holding annual meetings, with excursions for its members. One trip in 1879 through the west was covered by W. D. B. in letters to the *Journal* which were put into book form entitled, "From Ohio to the Rocky Mountains." Its preface states: "This compilation is respectfully dedicated to my brethren of the Ohio Editorial Association, with whom I have journeyed with pleasure. Persuasions of partial friends prevailed with me to publish my crude correspondence as a souvenir of a delightful excursion in June, 1879, with the Ohio Editorial Association from Ohio to the Rocky Mountains."

So from its start he was an active member of this Ohio newspaper organization. His whole life was given to newspaper work. He began at 20, in 1847, on the *Louisville Courier* under W. L. Haldeman. His gold-digging in the California "rushes" in 1850 he sank in four San Francisco newspapers in the next three years, coming back to Cincinnati in 1854, broke and hunting for a job. Murat Halstead gave him city work on his *Cincinnati Commercial*, and then sent him out to county fairs, and later to Columbus to do the Legislature. Here his contacts with Salmon P. Chase, Brough, Dennison, Garfield, Hayes, started strong friendships that lasted without break through life. Always they trusted him, and he never failed his friends; nor did he ever annoy men in high place asking for office.

Of Whig stock and a strict partisan with solid conviction, he hated secession and detested slavery. He was a live wire, redheaded, and a fighter; persistent and physically powerful; afraid of nothing and nobody. He wrote and said what he believed, and soon earned high place as a newspaperman.

His War Service

Came the Civil War. To him all "secesh" was "rebel" and against the flag. Halstead sent him as war correspondent for the *Commercial* to Rosecrans' Army in Tennessee in April, 1861. Rosecrans appointed him to his staff with rank of Captain. His conduct under fire and otherwise won admiration and soldier friends. At Carnifex Ferry he was reported by Rosecrans as the only member of his staff to stick with him through the fight, and for this he was promoted to the rank of Major.

April, 1861. The Time, the Place, and the Man. Conditions in every State differed. Mental confusion everywhere. Families quarreled and split

on slavery and "state's rights." The two political parties, Republican and Democratic, went to war; the solid South against the solid North. Came the "peace party," including both those who opposed war, and the Copperhead, who pretended peace but played to the South. Bickham particularly scorned the stay-at-home in the North, pretending peace but working for the South.

His going to Dayton shows some peculiar angles in a man's makeup. Why at all? Why go, when, or as he did? What appeal about Dayton or the *Journal*, which he know nothing about, to a man who especially hated the conditions and Copperheads there? Why undertake such a financial burden among total strangers and hostiles? Why anything about it worth trying? All with so little personal, social, political, financial reward if he succeeded? Nor was anything about the straggling, muddy, river bottom town itself promising. We of today must keep in mind the political status of the people of Dayton and Montgomery County before and during the Civil War. They were a 10 to 1 Democratic and anti-administration population. Many Union adherents had enlisted and were in the Union Army at the front. Dayton was a lonesome place for a Union newspaper builder. You who have tried it, and swapped the sword for the pen, know how near by you wanted that sword, and can appreciate Bickham's state of mind as he started to work on the *Journal*.

His Task at Dayton

Yet it must have been intriguing. How the community flared up against his coming, virtually dared him to attempt it, threatening dire calamity to him and his, only to simmer down and accept his editorial castigation which he at once applied; how he fixed his goal and set forth his requirements of the Dayton public if he succeeded for them; how he set his three-year time limit for his success, and won; how most of his hostiles fought him, yet respected him, and secretly desired his success; how he came on account of and in spite of conditions; why he thought he could do anything with or for such an antagonistic, rebellious, hateful, fighting populace or get anything out of it for himself or his but a fight, and perhaps worse; how it all worked out as it did for the public satisfaction, and his own success and fame.

On May 5, 1863, a Copperhead mob in sympathy with C. L. Vallandigham, who had been arrested for treason by General Burnside, attacked the *Dayton Journal* office, drove out the owners and workers, and destroyed the *Journal* by fire. Union people of Dayton organized to restore the paper, and sent a committee headed by Lewis B. Gunckel to Murat Halstead in Cincinnati for a new editor. Meanwhile General Rosecrans at headquarters informed Bickham that Washington wanted him in Dayton to handle the situation there. He so reported, first to Halstead, and then to Lewis B. Gunckel in Dayton; and in a few weeks had his small 4-page *Daily Dayton Journal* on the Dayton streets. Through the following months

it was printed on what was known as a "proof press" while the big clumsy Hoe cylinder press was pulled out of the fire and sent to Cincinnati for renovation. How Bickham survived and carried on has made many good "stories" since for the space writer.

He lived and worked under continual threat. But he walked daily among the people in open defiance. He refused to carry weapons and this may have had much to do with his immunity; but he was repeatedly shot at, never hit, and none dared attack him in the open personally. It was a strange and interesting experience. Where and when duplicate it, with the hated editor on the spot continually for ten years, always expecting assault, but getting by without a scratch or property loss; to count as his hometown friends and admirers the very men who fought his coming?

The first regular issue of Bickham's new *Dayton Daily Journal* was dated July 28, 1863, and he never missed an issue through the next 30 years till his death March 27, 1894. He was for 47 years continually making "copy," from his first day with the *Louisville Courier* in 1847.

His 30 years with the *Journal* could well be separated into three periods of 10 years each; the first ten from 1863 to 1873, covering the Lincoln-Grant administrations, with Andy Johnson to supply the friction; the second period from 1873 to 1883, covering Hayes, Garfield, and Arthur. The nomination, election, and four years of Hayes have provided vast newspaper copy; but Hayes surely smoothed out the ominous "carpet bagger" ruction. The third period, from 1883 to 1894, covering Cleveland and Harrison. Easy to picture the turmoil of that first ten years comprehending Lincoln's four terrible years of war; the Andy Johnson travesty and shame; reconstruction times in Washington and the "carpet baggers." Through all Bickham never let up a day. He stood to his slogan that "the Union must and shall be preserved," which he alternated with "down with the traitors." Don't forget he was a loyal, enthusiastic Union soldier, come to Dayton to fight. Strange as it may seem, they read him all the time and liked it. He was moulding public opinion.

Nor did he at any time forget his splendid wife in all her Spartan courage who came with him to Dayton with her three sons, to do her part in the work of sustaining him on the firing line. She went to the wars with her man, if ever woman did. Her father had died at the front in 1862 as Grant's quartermaster at Vicksburg. Bickham had been raised to detest the very things the South was glorifying and tearing the States apart to attain. He had gone to war to fight for a principle. He knew that war is "hell," and to fight any war right one must get over on one side of it and stay there. He did so. He could think and act no other way. But as soon as peace was declared he grooved himself for reconstruction, and found himself readjusting to take back and set up these very States he had spent four awful years fighting to defeat. Lincoln's assassination did not help him in this; nor did Andy Johnson's drunken drivel help; nor the defiant South; and so all went through the seething maelstrom of the Reconstruction Congresses and the carpet-baggers' racket. But somehow he "recon-

structed" Dayton, and as months passed wrath subsided, and conflict gave way to peace.

So we have followed the state of his mind in his day with his conditions.

EXPONENT OF HIS TIME

We repeat, Major W. D. Bickham was the exponent of his times. He lived in a day "when." He had to use the facilities and machinery of his time; imbibe the atmosphere of his time; write of the men and events of his time; and live and think accordingly. His day was fifty and sixty and seventy years ago. Newspapers then were known by their keepers, and their keepers sat in their throne rooms to command. A newspaper was known as Greeley's paper, Watterson's paper, Dana's paper, Halstead's paper, Bickham's paper. Virtually one-man newspapers. Each fixed his policy and stuck to it. Readers got used to knowing what to expect. So he had to be something of a personality or a character. His purpose was to stick to his formula and not get caught double-crossing himself; his object, to get a following; his aim, to mold public opinion. Major Bickham was a partisan. He believed in two-party politics. He came of patriotic forbears. He was always for "country and the flag." His people had been Whig, and he had followed into the Republican Party of Chase, Brough, Dennison, and Lincoln. From earliest youth his quickness flashed in his temper, his movements, mental reactions, and attachments, resentments, hostilities. He kept faith always. Resented all kinds of indirectness or meanness. Was susceptible to appeal from unfortunates. Nothing checked his immediate response to distress. Quick to wrath, as quick to forgive. Trickery or fraud aroused his utmost reprisals. He never quit till he got his man. At the end a friend wrote this of him: "Major Bickham while an eminent journalist, and understanding well where the financial success of a daily journal lies, never yet catered to a vitiated appetite of the masses. He kept his columns free from all sensationalisms. No smutty story ever disfigured its pages, and scrupulously did he guard the honor and feelings of every citizen whom his pen or silence could shield. He hated all shams and falsehoods with an inveterate hatred, while he loved honor and truth with a zeal and fervor, to the detriment sometimes of his own popularity. He had the courage of his convictions. Of late years he was not affiliated with any church, yet his belief in God, in Christ, in all that appertains to Christian doctrine, was not abated for one moment. His home was the dispenser of a generous hospitality, a home of culture and refinement—nay a Christian home. Rarely an appeal to Major Bickham for a favor he did not grant. He was the friend of the soldier; the advocate of the poor and oppressed; and a defender of the right and the truth."

Four political feuds lasted through his and his family's lives—due to his taking sides and sticking. He backed Senator John Sherman for the Senate against General Schenck; Lewis B. Gunckel for Congress against Samuel Craighead; J. B. Foraker for governor against Governor Bob Kennedy; and John Sherman again for Senate against J. B. Foraker. All his life in Dayton

he was the last word in Republican matters, as leader rather than boss; and the *Journal* office was always the center of public gravitation when things happened. Everybody had access to him any time. Young men especially sought his interest and advice. John H. Patterson, of the N. C. R., in one of his "screen" talks said, pointing to a picture of Bickham on the screen, "This man has done more for Dayton than any other man I ever knew."

His faith in his Country, the Union, the Flag, and the Constitution never wavered. His faith in the Republican party as the best political means to the best ends never flagged. He believed in government by two political parties with only their representatives in Congress, the one holding the other to rigid account.

So, too, he believed that a Protestant Church, and a Roman Catholic Church, and a Jewish Church were necessary to watch and curb each other in controlling the morals and passions of the community. As police were to stop crime and enforce law, so were newspapers to publish their actions and explain details. The one safety of the public is publicity. A newspaper's duty is to "tell all" that's fit to print; show the rascals up; make men in office afraid to cheat; and never stop telling. Why worry about enemies? Why go to press if not to throw fear into the bad man?

Now in this honor, gentlemen, conferred after many years, comes your recognition that Major William Denison Bickham had in his time, as a newspaper man, with all his mental and physical powers, "fought a good fight to point the way, to guide the people, and protect the State."

While here rests in peace his name
In this Ohio Hall of Fame
May his newspaper soul go marching on!